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Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 04482 031817Z

70
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 068886
R 031520Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0641
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 4482

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, AF, IN
SUBJECT: INDO-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 1968

1. WE FOUND AMBASSADOR ELIOT'S CONVERSATION WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR MEHTA (REFTEL) MOST INTERESTING AND CERTAINLY FAR MORE FORTHCOMING FROM THE INDIAN SIDE THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GLEAN HERE IN NEW DELHI AT ANY LEVEL. MEHTA'S COMMENTS DO SUPPORT OUR OWN IMPRESSIONS (NEW DELHI 11318, 12731, 12888 (1973) AND 2996 (1974) THAT INDIA HAS DISCOURAGED ANY AFGHAN ADVENTURISM AND IS MOST WARY OF BEING DRAWN INTO THE PUSHTUNISTAN ISSUE.

2. WE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL AGREE THAT KABUL SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR THERE THAT WE WELCOME THE ROLE INDIA IS PLAYING IN AFGHANISTAN. FOR THE PRESENT AT LEAST, WE WOULD NOT BE INCLINED TO DO THE SAME HERE OR RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON DO IT. FOR ONE THING, WE HAVE NOT REACHED THE POINT OF SUCH CANDID EXCHANGES OF VIEW ON AFGHANISTAN AS KABUL. FOR ANOTHER, ANY SUGGESTION ABOUT THE INDIANS PROVIDING AN ALTERNATE TO THE SOVIETS IN AFGHANISTAN MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD HERE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE THINK OUR APPLAUSE SHOULD BE PRESENTED ENTIRELY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OBVIOUSLY EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WHICH AMBASSADOR
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ELIOT HAS ESTABLISHED WITH AMBASSADOR MEHTA. WE COMMEND HIM AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO HEAR ABOUT INDIAN

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POLICY FROM KABUL.

3. WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT CALL AMBASSADOR ELIOT'S MESSAGE TO THE ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN WHEN HE IS NEXT IN THE DEPARTMENT.
SCHNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

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